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(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication** (10) **Pub. No.: US 2003/0093336 A1**  
(43) **Pub. Date: May 15, 2003**(54) **INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS  
AND METHOD, INFORMATION  
PROCESSING SYSTEM AND METHOD, AND  
PROGRAM**(52) **U.S. Cl. .... 705/26**(57) **ABSTRACT**(75) **Inventors: Yoshitaka Ukita, Tokyo (JP);  
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The present invention relates to an information processing apparatus which facilitates the processing for purchasing printed books after purchasing electronic books from which the printed books are manufactured. According to the information processing apparatus, an address on a network of a control center which can order printed books is attached to corresponding electronic book data. When browsing an electronic book at a user terminal, the user accesses the control center by performing a predetermined operation on the basis of the above-mentioned address. The user terminal sends the user ID to the control center. Upon reception of the order request for a printed book from the user terminal, the control center searches for the address of the user on the basis of the user ID and, at the same time, searches for a bookstore server having the stock of the requested printed book, thereby placing an order for the printed book to the nearest bookstore server. The bookstore server which accepted the order notifies a printed book deliverer server of the order of the printed book and the address of the user to which the printed book is to be delivered.

